

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 SAB-01 INR-07 PM-03 SP-02 H-02

L-02 EB-07 /050 W

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R 111732Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3561

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 2081

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EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS:: PFOR, PN, PQ, US

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF 400TH PRCE MEETING, APRIL 9

1. WELCOME TO GOVENOR PARFITT: AMBASSADOR WELCOMED GOV. PARFITT TO HIS FIRST MUNTING OF PRC AS GOVENOR, OBSERVING OCCASION ALSO MARKED 400TH PRC MEETING AND HIS OWN FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN PANAMA. AMBASSADOR UNDERLINED THE CLOSE COOPERATION WHICH EXISSTS AMONG PRC PRINCIPALS.

2. SNIE ON PANAMA: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED VISIT OF NIO MARENGO TO REVIEW DRAFT SNIE WITH COUNTRY TEAM, PAN CANAL AND SOUTHCOM REPRESENTATIVES, COMMENTING THAT MARENGO HAD FOUND HIS CONSULTATIONS USEFUL. GEN. FLEMING PRESENTED SOME WRITTEN COMMENTS PREPARED BY SOUTHCOM WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED SEPARATELY.

3. CODEL METCALFE: IN ASSESSING RESULTS OF RECENT VISIT OF PAN CANAL SUB-COMMITTEE, GOVENOR EMPHASIZED CONCERN EXPRESSED TO SUB-COMMITTEE BY PAN CANAL EMPLOYEES OVER THEIR FUTURE IN POST-TREATY ERA. GOVENOR REMARKED HE HAD EXPECTED TO FIND SOME DEGREE OF CONCERN REGARDING OUTLOOK BUT HE HAD NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR WIDESPREAD FEELING AMONG EMPLOYEES THAT THEY HAD BEEN "ABANDONED." HE REPORTED MANY EMPLOYEES NOW CONSIDER THAT EXPRESSING
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THEIR VIEWS AT COMPANY LEVEL IS NO LONGER EFFECTIVE AND

THEY ARE INCLINED TO GO TO SECDEF LEVEL AND EVEN DIRECTLY TO THE CONGRESS. GOVENOR STATAD HE WISHES COUNTERACT THIS TREND AND SAID HE HAD REPORT THAT AMBASSADOR BUNKER IS DRAFTING LETTER TO HIM WHICH COULD BE USED TO ASSURE PAN CANAL EMPLOYEES THAT THEIR RIGHTS ARE BEING TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN THE TREATY NEGOTIATION. AMBASSADOR STATED HE WOULD CHECK ON STATUS OF AMB. BUNKER'S LETTER TO GOVENOR AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS CONCERN WAS REAL PROBLEM THAT WAS GROWING WORSE. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT REQUESTED TO EXPEDITE TRANSMITTAL OF LETTER TO GOVENOR WHICH CAN BE USED TO ALLAY GROWING FEARS TO CZ EMPLOYEES.

4. SALE OF SCRAP STEEL: GOVENOR REPORTED PAN CANAL ABOUT TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES ON SALE OF 2,200 TONS OF SCRAP IRON AND STEEL AT \$37.50 PER TON.

5. CUBAN VEHICLES ON CZ MILITARY BASES: GEN. FLEMING SAID JCS HAS NOT PROVIDED GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING OF CUBAN CEHICLES ON MILITARY BASES AND SAID ANOTHER SUCH CASE HAD OCCURRED ON EVENING OF APRIL 8.

6. SQUATTERS: AERIAL SURVEY OF CZ HAS REVEALED SQUATTERS ARE BURNING OFF NEW AREAS FOR FUTURE PLANTING. THIS INFORMATION IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO NATIONAL GUARD IN CONNECTION WITH ITS CAMPAIGN TO RELOCATE SQUATTERS. JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PANAMA02081
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750128-0063
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750458/aaaacbri.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGHLIGHTS OF 400TH PRCE MEETING, APRIL 9
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US, PRC-PANAMA REVIEW COMMITTEE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006